

I pay a fee for a private residential phone line so that I can speak with friends and family, and conduct what private business is necessary to my life.

My private line is not paid for by the telemarketer. It is not purchased for his use. My private line is not a billboard.

I would not want to buy a private line that is a billboard.

The entire practice of predatory marketing is interfering with the free-will of citizens of the United States. I mention this, not as a digression, but because telemarketing is part and parcel of a growing cancer on the free management of our own lives by dishonorable business practices. It interferes with the living of our life, and the freedom of our choice and action.

Such predation is an alliance between businesses. The phone companies sell the user equipment such as caller-id, designed to protect them from unwanted intrusion. Then they sell routing services to telemarketers that enable them to subvert this equipment; the number comes up "unavailable." This also has the effect of rendering prosecutory remedies ineffective, since the caller cannot be identified.

The motive for such behavior is the use of citizens as cash-cows for double profit. Business is interested in unfair profit. Fair profit provides a wanted service. Unfair profit increases revenue at the expense of the customer for no service rendered, or for what I call "forced services."

Here is what it is like to try to use my telephone:

I receive twenty-five to thirty telemarketing calls each day.

I have to turn off the ringer on the phone to get peace.

My answering machine has become a defense mechanism instead of an assistance to me. The answering machine has become a barrier between myself and the friends and family with whom I wish to communicate. I have to tell callers that I will call them back.

When I attempt to retrieve messages, I have first to go through the string of telemarketer messages. Worse, sometimes I cannot get my messages because the tape is filled with telemarketer messages.

If I use a tele-zapper, this does not stop the sweat-shop generated calls, and has the unwanted side-effect of preventing colleagues with computer-dial-address-books from reaching me from their computer.

I hope many people have told you about this one: I have telemarketers, angry because I demanded identification or did not want the call, call me from 11p.m. through the wee hours of the morning as revenge. Not only are telemarketers aggressive, they are destructively aggressive. They have no good intention. They certainly do not have any intention connected with service.

My telephone table looks like a broadcast station in the trenches in a war. It has so many things hooked up to it. It looks ugly. It feels ugly. It is a mess of wires.

All this stuff, that I have to buy in order to use my own telephone line, is expensive. I am sure you have received detailed information about the incremental and total cost per annum.

Telemarketers still call.

About the issue of a don't call list:

I put my name on a don't-call list. I now have more junk mail than I can throw away. The telemarketers simply used it as an opportunity for unfair

profit. They exposed me to unwanted intrusion. They gave other people access to me without my permission.

Again, I say, this is predatory behavior. I hope the FCC will understand the full ramifications of the current trend that any exposure is exposure to everyone, and do away with a name-identifiable don't-call list.

Business is part of life.

It has its own realm.

It should be confined to that realm.

Business should not gain profit from intrusion, disservice, the marketing of private information. It should not expose people to unwanted access by others.

Business should not manage individuals.

In summary:

I do not want my home phone used for free advertising.

I do not want my home invaded by unwanted calls.

I do not want interference with my rightful use of a service I pay for.

I want the private use of my telephone.

I want telemarketing to be illegal.

It is my peaceful prayer that you will consider this when making your law. I hope this law of the citizens of the United States, who have inalienable rights that should be protected.

It is my hope that you will next turn your attention to predatory advertising practices on the web.

Thank you for letting us all know that you are taking comments.